



Cedar Breaks National Monument

Wildflower Festival

Wildflower Photography Tips

- **FILL THAT VIEWFINDER!**

Perhaps the biggest shortcoming for photographers is their failure to get close to their subject. Get as close as you think you need to get and then move **TWO STEPS** closer. Especially with wildflower photography, you will need to get very close.

- **USE OPTICAL ZOOM**

When using digital cameras, optical zoom is preferable to digital zoom. Digital zoom is very low resolution and gives a “grainy” appearance. When using a macro lens on either a digital or film SLR, a 90 mm focal length at minimum is preferable. 55 mm or 75 mm macros just don’t get close enough

- **AVOID DISTRACTING BACKGROUNDS**

Bring a sheet of matt black mat board in the field with you that measures 10 or 12 inches square. Place it behind your wildflower subject as a backdrop to give the illusion of a “Studio still life.”

- **DIRECT SUNLIGHT IS NOT NECESSARY**

Realize that direct sunlight is not only not necessary, but can be at times, unflattering. The diffuse “soft” light of an overcast day can be beautiful light for wildflower photography. If diffuse light seems not bright enough use a piece of white mat board as a “fill” card. Your fill card can also act as a “wind break” on breezy days so that your subject flower doesn’t sway in the breeze producing a blurry photo.

- **USE A TRIPOD**

Tripods are especially useful in wildflower photography since as a photographer you are usually low to the ground in awkward positions. By placing the camera on a tripod you can work more deliberately and methodically ensuring good results. If you have a mirror lock-up feature on your SLR, use it in conjunction with a cable release.

- **USE THE RIGHT APERTURE**

Remember when you want the expansive vista shot with the wildflower in the extreme foreground and the mountains and everything else in between in focus, this will require an aperture of f16 or f22.

- **TAKE LOTS OF SHOTS**

Use lots of film and or memory and take an abundance of photos and try different angles, light, composition etc.

- **ENJOY THE BEAUTY**

Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the beauty you are attempting to capture!